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Bigelow, John M.

A list of the medicinal plants of Ohio…

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OF

THE MEDICINAL PLANTS OF OHIO,

(Not embraced in Wood & Bache's U. S. Dispensatory,)

CONTAINING

AS FAR AS KNOWN, A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THEIR PROPERTIES.

BY JOHN M. BIGELOW, M. D.

COLUMBUS:
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THE OHIO

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

---EXTRA.---

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF OHIO.

The substance of the following paper, was communicated to the "*Fairfield County Medical Institute*," at its July sitting, with a request by resolution, that I should furnish them with a list of those plants that are known, or considered medicinal; the histories and qualities of which are not enumerated in Wood & Bache's truly national *Dispensatory of the United States*. They requested also, that I should annex the synonymous and common names by which they are known throughout the country. I find by reference to Riddell's *Synopsis of the Flora of the Western States*, made in 1834; Sullivant's *Catalogue of Plants in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio*, 1840; and my own *Herbarium*, that we have about 387 species of plants, possessing medicinal qualities, growing wild or in a naturalized state in Ohio. One hundred and twenty-three of these, are embodied in the great work before referred to; 64 are embraced in the *Appendix*, leaving about 200 species hardly even mentioned.

Of those noticed in this paper, it can hardly be expected that all, on examination, will be found worthy of a place in our national *Pharmacopœia;* but the properties of a large proportion of them, are very partially known: and an enumeration of them with a brief indication of the medical activity of the natural orders to which they belong, will greatly facilitate the enlightened investigator in his path of discovery.

Since the sitting of the *Institute*, I find my name reported in the July No. of the *Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal*, for 1849, as having been appointed Chairman of a "Committee on Materia Medica and Botany in Ohio," by the *Ohio State Medical Society*, with the permission of selecting my associates. To carry out, in any considerable measure, the views and intentions of the *Society*, in the establishment of the committee, it

is necessary that every member of the Profession in Ohio, should co-operate in the collection and diffusion of facts, in this branch of medical progress. And I hereby cordially invite every member of the Profession, to participate in the duties of the commission. The field open for investigation, being so fertile and extensive, I propose, that those who prefer, can make their reports directly to the *Society*. Those who do not, but are willing to perform some service in the Profession, may address me at Lancaster, by the 10th of April, 1850, any communications, facts, or suggestions upon this interesting subject, and their claims to notoriety, shall be honorably and faithfully observed. If any member should obtain facts in relation to the medicinal qualities of plants, the natural order and botanical names of which, he is not familiar with, on his forwarding me by mail, or otherwise, a dried specimen, I will afford him all the information of which I am capable. Rare plants, also, without reference to their medicinal qualities, not enumerated in the *Catalogues* heretofore mentioned, tending to elucidate the Botany of the Western States, will be most thankfully received, and the favor reciprocated.

There are so many sources of fallacy surrounding this branch of our profession, that whoever attempts to embody a system in accordance with the true principles of science, will meet with difficulties on every hand; the same that are encountered on all other subjects, not demonstrable with mathematical certainty. Adverting to a few of them in this connection, will not be altogether out of place. Some of these difficulties are inherent in the subject, and will probably never be wholly obviated. Others can, in a measure, be guarded against, by a rigid adhesion to the inductive philosophy. I believe, many times, medicines of the vegetable kingdom acquire the reputation of possessing peculiar qualities, from adventitious circumstances, and we ought to be satisfied, only, with the observed effects of them, under repeated, and every variety of circumstances that can be obtained.

The time for gathering, and the manner of preparing plants for medicinal purposes, are important, and should be carefully observed. I do not know the best time for gathering all plants, yet general rules will guide us, in some degree, though not without exceptions. With many plants, it is absolutely necessary to gather them every year. Others will retain their activity a number of years; but, as a general rule they should be collected every year.

Prof. Wood, in an *introductory* delivered to his class in 1840, observed that Shoepf, 50 years ago, advanced the opinion, "that relying upon their native resources, the Americans might

dispense with the greater part, if not the whole of imported medicines." To this opinion, however, after half a century has been spent in the investigation and improvement of our indigenous Materia Medica, Prof. Wood cannot assent.— He says, "the present standard remedies, have for the most part been gathered from all quarters of the globe, have gone through every variety of trial, have been sifted out from an immense mass of materials, and hence stood the test of experience, which for thousands of years has been in the course of accumulation." Concceding all this however, it must be admitted, that from custom, or indolence, or want of thought, or some other cause, we are too much in the habit of depending on foreign countries for our supplies of vegetable medicines, such, even, as we could furnish ourselves in a far purer and fresher state. And when we take into consideration, the immense amount of old, decayed, deteriorated, effete and adulterated stuff, cast upon our shores from foreign countries, said to be at a cheap rate, but which, in the end, would be dear, even if they *paid us* for using it, at the rate we charge our patients; it is surprising, that long ere this, we had not opened our eyes to the imposition, and learned to rely on the rich resources of our own country. I feel that a brighter day is dawning, and that through the enlightened and indefatigable efforts of our talented friend and colleague, Dr. Edwards, in Congress, a revolution in this respect, has, at this time, commenced; and that henceforth, many domestic medicines, which are superior substitutes, will be used in preference to the foreign article. When depending on our own resources, we can always have them fresh at any rate, while the foreign article must necessarily, in some cases, become old and effete.

An excellent paper by the late Prof. Duhamel, on the collection, preservation and preparation of plants, will be found in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, Vol. I. page 168, to which I must refer as the best source of information on the subject, that is known at this time.

The time for collecting plants for medicinal purposes, depends upon the parts that are required for use. *Seeds*, of course, should only be collected when they are fairly ripe.

It is very difficult to dry *flowers* so as to keep their sensible properties. Some are incapable of being completely dried, without entirely destroying their active qualities. Others may be dried without difficulty or deterioration. They should be dried as rapidly as possible, excluded from light, at a temperature of 130 to 140 degrees Fah. After being completely deprived of moisture, they may be compressed, in the manner practiced by the Shakers, which keeps them in a very efficient condition.

The same care must be observed in drying *leaves*, in order to preserve their natural color. The time, in general, to collect leaves, is after the flowers have expanded, and before the seeds ripen. I believe however our Cassias should not be gathered until the fruit ripens. It is important to remark that the leaves of biennials should not be collected until their second season of growth, while the roots are only fit for use their first.

The best season for the collection of *barks*, is when they can be most easily separated from the wood. In all cases, they should be procured before the flowers are produced, or after the re-productive process is terminated, as at this time, all other portions of its structure are deprived of their usual proportion of proper juices to be directed to the elaboration of the organs necessary for the re-productive functions. Those that have attained their full powers, are best. The very young, or very old, should be rejected.

When woody *stems* are to be collected, the proper season is winter, as at this time the wood furnishes a greater quantity of extract. If they are herbaceous, they should be gathered after the leaves are fully formed, and before the flowers are expanded.

Roots of perennial plants, should be collected late in the Autumn, in Winter, or early in the Spring. Biennials should be collected in the Autumn of their first year, on the disappearance of the leaves. And the roots of annuals, in the Autumn, before the decay of the stems. Much of the activity of plants depend upon an observance of these simple rules; yet they are, by no means absolute, requiring variation, sometimes, in accordance with the peculiar plants, and in others with the parts required for use. Cultivation, dryness, or wetness of the particular season and locality, have much influence upon the virtues of many species, all of which should be specially noted in making up their exact history.

When it is remembered, with what difficulty the physician is embarrassed, in adjusting the doses of old and well established medicines, to the various pathological conditions of his patients, it will not be a matter of surprise, that, in the exact establishment of the effects and properties of new and untried ones, our difficulties should be greatly enhanced. In the former, we have the experience and observations of the most enlightened minds for ages, upon the subject to serve us as guides; while in the latter we have to grope our way in utter darkness —like a way-faring man, cutting his path through a perfect wilderness. I have little doubt, but that many articles, which are at present laid by, from a loss of the reputation they once held, induced by the want of a proper appreciation of the

doses, adapted to the pathological state of the system, will be resuscitated, and found possessing valuable properties upon further, more careful, and exact information upon the subject. It will therefore behoove us to be extremely careful and circumspect, if we attempt to travel the untrodden paths of science—to admit nothing that will not stand the severest test of scrutiny, and at the same time, so vary and multiply our observations and experiments, as to let nothing escape our attention, that will prove a real acquisition to the profession we adore.

Order I. RANUNCULACEÆ. (*Crow-foot Family.*)

Acridity, causticity and poison are the general characteristics of this order. There are exceptions, as in *Coptis*, which is a very pure bitter; *Hydrastis*, which is bitter and astringent, and *Cimicifuga*, a mild anti-spasmodic.

Sp. 1. Ranunculus abortivus. Linn.

Common name—Small flowered Crowfoot—Chicken pepper. Erect, 1°—1½° high, fl. pale yellow, minute.—April, June.

Sp. 2. R. Pennsylvanicus. Linn.

Com. name—Bristly Crowfoot. Wet places; coarse plant. 2°—3° high, inconspicuous pale flowers—June, Aug.

Sp. 3. R. Repens. Linn.

Com. name—creeping crowfoot; Butter cups, Stem creeping, 4′—6′ long, petals deep yellow, large.—June, Aug.

These are all very common plants, are powerful vesicatories, and acrid rubefacients.

Sp. 4. Aquilegia canadensis. Linn.

Com. name—wild Columbine; 1° high, flower, showy scarlet. —April, June. The seeds are said to be tonic.

Sp. 5. Thalictrum anemonoides. Mich.

Com. name—meadow Rue, Rue leaved anemone. A pretty, small plant, like anemone; flowers few in a simple umbel—white.—April, May. There are many other species of this order, some of which may be found to possess medicinal virtues of a high order.

Order II. BERBERIDACEÆ. (*Barberry Family.*)

All the American plants of this order, are spoken of as medicinal, among which we notice *Podophyllum.* (May apple.)

Sp. 6. LEONTICE THALICTROIDES. Linn.

Com. names—Cohosh, Blue Cohosh, Blueberry, Papoose root, Squaw root, Blue Ginseng, Yellow Ginseng; 1½° high. Flowers small, yellowish green; seeds the size of large peas, blue.—May.

According to Rafinesque, it is demulcent, anti-spasmodic, emmenagogue, sudorific, &c. The Indians and their imitators, he says, use it against Rheumatism, Dropsy, Sorethroat, Cramp, Hiccup, Epilepsy, Hysteria, Inflammation of the Uterus, &c. Smith asserts that the Indian women owe the facility of their parturition to a constant use of a tea of the root, for 2 or 3 weeks before their time. It may be used in infusion, decoction, tincture and syrup.

Sp. 7. JEFFERSONIA DIPHYLLA. Pers.

Com. names—Common Twin leaf; Rheumatism root; Yellow root; Helmet pod; Ground Squirrel pea. Very much resembles a *Podophyllum*. 3′—6′ high; flowers white 1′ broad. —April, May.

Rafinesque asserts that the Indians used this plant as a diuretic in Dropsy. Riddell mentions that it was used by Dr. Jones, as a stimulant, diaphoretic, anti-Rheumatic, and anti-spasmodic. I think it is worth analyzation and fair trial.

ORDER III.—CABOMBACEÆ. (*Water Shield Family.*)

Sp. 8. BRASENIA PELTATA. Pursh. Syn. HYDROPELTIS PURPUREA. Michx.

Com. names—Water Shield, Frogleaf, Little Water Lilly, Water Jelly, Deer Food. Stalks coated with clear jelly.—Leaves entire 2′—3′ across.—July.

Rafinesque ranks this plant as intermediate between *Lichen Islandicus* and the *Water Lillies*, possessing mucilaginous, astringent, demulcent, tonic and nutritive properties. It may, on trial, be found a superior substitute for *Lichen* in phthisis, inflammation of mucous membranes, debility, &c.

ORDER IV.—PAPAVERACEÆ. (*Poppy Family.*)

Opium and *Sanguinaria*, are representative products of this most important order, and so familiar with the profession, that a word of comment is not necessary.

Sp. 9. STYLOPHORUM DIPHYLLUM. Nutt. Syn. MECONOPSIS DIPHYLLA. D. C.

Com. names—Celandine poppy; Horn poppy; Braise root. Flowers yellow, 2′ broad.—May, Aug.

Shœpf says that it has a yellow juice like *celandine*, but more fetid, deleterious, narcotic and phantastic. Used externally for

wounds, contusions and gravelly pains. The leaves infused in wine, taken in small doses for gravel in Portugal, &c.

Sp. 10. Argemone mexicana. Linn.

Com. name—Mexican Prickly poppy. Flowers solitary; pale yellow or white; Calyx prickly.—July, Oct.

Said by Rafinesque to unite the properties of *opium, gamboge* and *celandine*. It is anodyne, detersive, resolutive, hypnotic and diuretic. Seeds drastic and emetic. Used in Herpetic diseases, Psora, Sore eyes, Dropsy, Jaundice, &c.

Order V.—FUMARIACEÆ. (*Fumitory Family.*)

This is rather a feeble order, but according to Lindley, some plants contain a peculiar alkaloid called Corydalin.

Sp. 11. Dicentra cucullaria. D. C.

There has been a good deal of confusion in spelling this name correctly among high authority. De Candolle spelt it *Diclytra*. Torrey and Gray, as good American authority as can be produced, spelt it Dielytra in 1840.

Com. name—Dutchman's Breeches. A very delicate plant, with a slender scape bearing 4—10 pretty, but *odd shaped, white flowers* tipped with cream color.—April, May.

Sp. 12. Dicentra canadensis. D. C.

Com. name—Squirrel corn; Colic weed. Much like the preceding. Flower greenish-white tinged with red, fragrance of Hyacinths.

Riddell mentions that Dr. Jones, of Columbus, uses a drachm three times a day as a substitute for mercury, in venereal complaints. It is used as a lotion externally, in syphilis and gonorrhœa. Riddell imagines that it is probably secernent, stimulant, diuretic and diaphoretic. I have, myself, substituted it in cutaneous diseases, for the *Fumaria officinalis* of the shops. It is probably worth investigating.

Sp. 13. Corydalis aurea. Willd.

Com. name—Golden Corydalis. Flowers golden-yellow, and showy, or paler and less handsome; Pods hardly 1′ long, uneven.—April, July.

Sp. 14. Corydalis glauca. Pursh.

Com. name—Smooth Corydalis. Corolla whitish, shaded with yellow and flesh color.—May, July.

Probably possessing properties in common with the order.

Order VI.—CAPPARIDACEÆ. (*Caper Family.*)

Properties—acrid, bitter, nauseous.

Sp. 15. Polanisia graveolens. Raf.

Com. names—False mustard; Clammy mustard; Worm weed; Stink weed; Common Clammy weed. Flowers small, calyx and filaments purplish; petals yellowish white —June, August.

Active anthelmintic, resembling in its effects, *Chenopodium anthelminticum.* The whole plant may be used, either in powder, decoction, or syrup.

It is noticed in Griffith's Medical Botany, p. 139.

Order VII.—VIOLACEÆ. (*Violet Family.*)

Lindley tells us that the roots of all *Violaceæ*, appear to be more or less emetic, a property, so strongly possessed by South American species, as to acquire the name of Ipecacuanha.—Hence, we have every reason to believe, we would be doing good service in the cause of American Pharmacy, to investigate this hitherto much neglected order.

Sp. 16. Solea concolor. *Ging.* Syn. *Viola Concolor.* Pursh.

Com. name—Green Violet. A homely plant 1°—2° high. Pod 1′ long.—June.

Sp. 17. Viola blanda. Willd.

Com. name—Sweet white violet. Flowers small, fragrant. —April, May.

Sp. 18. V. Sagittata. Ait.

Com. name—Arrow leaved Violet.

Leaves halbert form or arrow shaped. Flowers large deep blue.—May.

Sp. 19. V. Cucullata. Ait.

Com. name—Hood leaved Violet. Foliage variable.—Flowers large and numerous; deep colored blue.—Apl. June.

Sp. 20. V. Palmata. Linn.

Com. name—Palmate Violet. Flowers same as 19. Leaves very variable.—May.

Sp. 21. Viola rostrata. Pursh.

Com. name—Long Spurred Violet; plant 4′—6′ high.—Flowers large in proportion; pale; Spurr ½′ long.—June.

Sp. 22. V. Muhlenbergii. Torr.

Com. name—Spreading Violet. Stems 4′—7′ long. Flowers middle-sized.—May, June.

Sp. 23. V. Striata. Ait.

Com. name—Pale Violet. Flowers sulphur color.—May, June.

Sp. 24. V. Pubescens. Ait.

Com. name—Downy Yellow Violet; plant 6′—10′ high.—Flowers deep yellow.—June. July.

Sp. 25. V. Tricolor. Linn.

Com. name—Field Pansy; Heart's Ease; from gardens.—May, July.

These plants are all very common and well known.

Order VIII.—CISTACEÆ. (*Rock Rose Family.*)

Sp. 26. Helianthemum canadense. Michx.

Com. name—Frost weed, Frost plant. Crystals of ice shoot from the bark at the root.—June, Aug.

Sp. 27. Helianthemum corymbosum. Michx.

Com. name—Rock Rose.—June, August.

Tonic, astringent, deobstruent, alterative, &c.

In the Appendix of the last edition of Wood & Bache, will be found an account of these plants.

Dr. Ives, Dr. Parrish and Dr. Tyler have used them with success in scrofula, scrofulous sore eyes, diarrhœa and secondary syphilis. Dr. Brocket, (*West. Lancet, Vol. III. p.* 432,) has used them in eczema, &c.

Order IX.—MALVACEÆ. (*Mallow Family.*)

Sp. 28. Napæa dioica. Linn. Syn. *Sida dioica.* Cav.

Com. name—Glade Mallow. Root leaves 1°—2° broad.—July.

Sp. 29. Malva sylvestris. Linn.

Com. name—High Mallow. Partially naturalized.—May. August.

Sp. 30. Hibiscus moscheutos. Linn.

Com. name—Swamp Rose Mallow. Plant stout, 5° high, corolla 5′ in diameter.

Sp. 31. H. Syriacus. Linn.

Com. name—Shruby Althæa; common in gardens; a small tree.—July, August.

Order X.—TILIACEÆ. (*Linden Family.*)

Sp. 32. Tilia americana. Linn.

Com. names—Bass wood, White wood, Lime tree. Flowers cream color; fragrant; large tree.

ORDER XI.—LINACEÆ. (*Flax Family.*)

Sp. 33. LINUM VIRGINANUM. Linn.

Com. name—Wild Flax. Biennial or perennial? Stem 1°—2° high.—June, August.

The above three orders all possess purely mucilaginous properties. They are also all perfectly innocuous and healthful.

ORDER XII.—ZANTHOXYLACEÆ. (*Prickly Ash Family.*)

Nearly all the plants known of this order, are aromatic and pungent. Some are powerful sudorifics and diaphoretics.—According to Barton, they possess the remarkable property of exciting salivation, whether applied immediately to the gums or taken internally.

Sp. 34. PETELA TRIFOLIATA. Linn.

Com. name—Shrubby Trefoil, Swamp Dog wood, Stinking Prairie Bush, Stinking Ash, Wing Seed. A tall shrub; fruit bitter.—June.

Riddell says it has been used in the cure of intermittents, and believes it to possess active medicinal properties.—(*Synop. West. Flor.* 34.)

ORDER XIII.—ACERACEÆ. (*Maple Family.*)

Sp. 35. ACER PENNSYLVANICUM. Linn.

Com. names—Striped Maple, Striped Dogwood, Moosewood, Dock Mackie Maple. A small slender tree.—June.

Used as a topical application in inflammations.

Sp. 36. A. RUBRUM. Linn.

Com. name—Red Maple, Swamp Maple. Large tree.

An extract from the bark is astringent, and might many times be substituted for high priced foreign articles.

ORDER XIV.—HIPPOCASTANACEÆ. (*Horse Chestnut Family.*)

Sp. 37. ÆSCULUS GLABRA. Willd.

Com. names—Ohio Buckeye, Fetid Buckeye. Small tree. Flowers small; not showy.—May, June.

Sp. 38. Æ. FLAVA. Ait.

Com. names—Yellow Buckeye, Smooth Buckeye. Often a large tree. Seeds very large.—May.

These are the emblem trees of Ohio, and beyond question, possess medicinal properties of considerable power; yet we do not know the cases to which they are exactly adapted.—The effect of the leaves in the Spring, and of the fruit in the

Fall, upon cattle that eat them, are well known to every physician of the west. It appears strange, therefore, that we do not more carefully investigate their just position in the Materia Medica, instead of depending upon foreign substitutes of equally doubtful, and more variable and unknown properties.

Orddr XV.—CELASTRACEÆ. (*Spindle-tree Family.*)

Sp. 39. Celastrus scandens. Linn.

Com. names—Wax Work, False Bittersweet, Climbing Bittersweet, Fever-twig, Staff-vine. Stem woody, twining, scarlet covering of the seeds, ornamental.—June.

Sp. 40. Euonymus atropurpureus. Jacq.

Com. names—Burning Bush, Indian Arrow, Spindle-tree.—Shrub 10°—12° high. Fruit in copious clusters; crimson, ornamental.—June.

This is rather an active order, but little used in regular practice. Griffith says that the general character of the order is acridity, but the seeds yield an oil which is useful for a variety of purposes. *Celastrus Scandens*, according to Rafinesque, is equivalent to *Dulcamara* and *mezereon*. Riddell asserts that it has been used by Thompsonians as a stimulating diuretic, and in doses of 3i, 3 times a day, of the powdered bark, is capable of removing hepatic obstructions. Griffith, (Med. Bot. p. 219,) regards the two species as equivalents of each other and used alike. My friend, Dr. White, of Lancaster, recently mentioned to me, that *Euonymus Atropurpureus*, had been used in intermittents. Indeed, he thinks it will not only as certainly cure intermittents as quinine; but that it will prevent their subsequent recurrence. Should such be the fact, it will certainly prove an acquisition to our Materia Medica. They are at least worthy of extended trial.

Order XVI.—VITACEÆ. (*Vine Family.*)

Sp. 41. Ampelopsis quinquefolia. Michx.

Com. names—Virginian Creeper, American Ivy, Five leaved Ivy, Woody Climber. Flowers in July. Berries black, in Oct.

Eberle recommended this plant as an admirable expectorant in pulmonary complaints, an account of which may be found in the 1st Vol. of West. Med. Gaz.

Order XVII.—LEGUMINOSEÆ. (*Pulse or Bean Family.*)

This is one of the most extensive, as it is also one of the most important in the vegetable kingdom, whether it has reference to objects, either of ornament, of utility, or of nutriment.

Sp. 42. Robinia pseudacacia. Linn.

Com. names—Common Locust, False Acacia, Black Locust. Flowers white; fragrant; large tree.—June.

Inner bark sweetish, like liquorice, emetic, cathartic and pectoral, according to doses; root best. Blossoms laxative.—(Rafinesque Med. Flor. Vol. II. p. 258.)

Sp. 43. Baptisia leucantha. Torr. and Gr.

Com. name—Tall White False Indigo. Flowers white.—Pods 2′ long.—July.

Closely allied to *B. Tinctoria,* of which a tolerable good history is given by Rafinesque, (Med. Flor. Vol. I. p. 79,) and Wood and Bache. It possesses the same properties and is considered valuable by some physicians.

Sp. 44. Cassia chamæcrista. Linn.

Com. names—Prairie Senna, Partridge Pea, Wild Senna.—Stems spreading; 1° long; showy, bright yellow petals.—Aug.

Riddell says that this is a better cathartic than the *C. Marilandica,* and most writers, that this last is better than the *Egyptian Senna* of the shops. I have used C. Marilandica, but have not been pleased with it. My ill-success with it however, may have been caused by its not having been gathered and cured in a proper manner, and at a proper season. I gathered in Summer, when it was in blossom; but Rafinesque says it should be collected in Autumn after the fruit has ripened. If it is worthy, it should certainly supersede the foreign article.

Sp. 45. Tephrosia virginiana. Pers.

Com. names—Hoary Pea, Turkey Pea, Goat's Rue, Catgut, Devil's Shoe Strings—1° high; large, handsome blossoms, yellowish-white, marked with red-purple.—June.

Griffith, (Med. Bot., 248,) recommends giving it a fair trial, from the fact that other species of the genus are known to possess active qualities, especially of a purgative character.

Order XVIII.—ROSACEÆ. (*Rose Family.*)

A well known order, possessing valuable astringent, tonic, and anodyne properties.

Sp. 46. Spiræa opulifolia. Linn.

Com. name—Nine Bark. Shrub 4°—10° high. Flowers white; pods tinged with purple.—June.

Sp. 47. S. Salicifolia. Linn.

Com. name—Willow-leaved Meadow Sweet. Shrub 2°—5° high. Flowers white; tinged with purple.—July.

Sp. 48. S. Tomentosa. Linn.

Com. names—Hard Hack, Steeple Bush, Rosy Bush. Shrub 3° high. Flowers rose color.—July.

Not well recognised in our books. Griffith, (Med. Bot. 281,) states that the part recognised in the U. S. Pharmacopœia, is the least valuable; and *S. Tomentosa*, is the only one noticed. They should be further and more closely investigated.

Sp. 49. S. Lobata. Murr.

Com. name—Queen of the Prairie. Herbaceous, perennial. Stem 4°—8° high. Flowers deep peach blossom color; very handsome.

The blossoms, and probably the young seed pods, possess a peculiar fragant and aromatic astringency, that will doubtless render it valuable when we come to know more of its properties.

Sp. 50. Agrimonia eupatoria. Linn.

Com. names—Common Agrimony, Cockle Burr, Stick-wort. Root sweet scented.—July, Sept.

Mild astringent, tonic and corroborant. Useful in coughs, and bowel complaints, (Rafinesque Med. Flor. 1–34.)

Sp. 51. Sanguisorba canadensis. Linn.

Com. name—Canada Burnett. A tall herb; flowers white, sometimes purple.—August, Oct.

Slightly astringent and tonic—(Riddell Syn. West. Flor. 17.)

Sp. 52. Geum virginianum. Linn.

Com. names—White Avens, Evan root, Avens, Chocolate root, Cure-all, Throat-root.

Sp. 53. Geum vernum. Torr. and Gr. Syn. *Stylipus.* Raf.

Com. name—Western early Avens. Flowers small, yellow. —April, June.

These, as also all the others of the genus, are astringent, styptic, tonic, febrifuge, and stomachic. Much neglected by the profession, from no other cause that I know of, but that they are so easily obtained.

Sp. 54. Potentilla canadensis. Lind.

Com. names—Cinque-foil, Five-finger. Very common.—Flowers yellow.—April, October.

Sp. 55. P. Norvegica. Linn.

Com. name—Norway Cinque-foil. A coarse, homely, annual or biennial weed.—July, Sept.

A very good mild astringent.

Sp. 56. Comarum palustre. Linn. Syn. *Potentilla Palustris.* Scop. &c.

Com. name—Marsh Cinque-foil. Stems 1°—2° high.—June.

Another active and useful astringent.

Sp. 57. Fragaria virginiana. Ehrh.

Com. name—Wild Strawberry.—April, June.

Leaves astringent. Berries a delightful refrigerant. Griffith, (Med. Bot. 277,) condescends to notice this well known plant, although hitherto, our Pharmacologists have entirely neglected it. It is a native and beautiful plant, and deserves not the neglect that has been doled out to it.

Sp. 58. Rubus strigosus. Michx.

Com. name—Wild Red Raspberry. Stem biennial.—May. Leaves frequently used as a mild astringent.

Order XIX.—CALYCANTHACEÆ. (*Calycanthus Family.*)

Sp. 59. Calycanthus floridus. Linn.

Com. names—Carolina Allspice, Sweet Scented Shrub.

Shrubs 5°—10° high. Flowers lurid purple.—March June.

Root, according to Rafinesque, is very strong emetic.—(Med. Flor. Vol II. p. 203.)

Order XX.—ONAGRACEÆ. (*Evening Primrose Family.*)

Sp. 60. Ephilobium angustifolium. Linn.

Com. name—Great Willow Herb. Stem 4°—10° high.—Flowers pink-purple, very showy; pods hoary.—July.

Roots emollient, slightly astringent, and anti-dysenteric.—(Riddell Syn. West. Flor. 15.)

E. Coloratum. Muhl. Com. name—Purple Veined Willow Herb. Plant 1°—3° high. Common in all parts of the State. My friends, Drs. Van Fossen & Kreider have used this plant in cases of Dysentery with marked benefit.

Sp. 61. Œnothera biennis. Linn.

Com. names—Common Evening Primrose, Cure-all. Stem erect 3°—7° high; flowers bright yellow.—June, Sept.

Griffith, (Med. Bot. 304,) gives this plant a place in his book. He says the bark and leaves in a recent state are mucilaginous, and leave a slight sensation of acridity after being chewed.—He used it in infantile eruptions, of an obstinate character; bathing the eruptions several times a day, with a decoction made of the bark of the large stems and leaves.

Order XXI.—PASSIFLORACEÆ. (*Passion Flower Family.*)

Sp. 62. Passiflora lutea. Linn.

Com. name—Pale Passion Flower. Flowers greenish-yellow, small, vines climbing by tendrils.—July, Sept.

Griffith, (Med. Bot. 144.) remarks that our information with regard to this genus of plants, is far from being definite; yet, he believes they possess active qualities, capable of fulfilling a variety of indications. Some of them possess narcotic and emetic properties.

ORDER XXII.—CUCURBITACEÆ. (*Gourd Family.*)

Sp. 63. SYCIOS ANGULATUS. Linn.

Com. names—One Seeded Star Cucumber, Wild Bryony Succulent vines.—July, Sept.

Root and seeds bitter, purgative and diuretic. Equivalent of *Bryony* in dropsies—(Rafinesque Med. Flor. p. 263.)

ORDER XXIII.—CRASSULACEÆ. (*House Leek Family.*)

Said by Lindly to possess refrigerant and abstergent properties.

Sp. 64. SEDUM TERNATUM. Michx.

Com. names—False Ice Plant, Three-Leaved Stone Crop.—Petals white, common in gardens.—May, June.

Little is known of this order except what is said by Lindley.

ORDER XXIV.—SAXIFRAGACEÆ. (*Saxifrage Family.*)

Lindley observes that all the plants of this order possess more or less astringent properties. *Heuchera americana* is well spoken of and recommended by Wood and Bache, in the U. S. Dispensatory; but notwithstanding, it is almost entirely neglected by American physicians.

SUB ORDER I.—SAXIFRAGEÆ. (*True Saxifrages.*)

Sp. 65. SAXIFRAGA PENNSYLVANICA. Linn.

Com. name—Swamp Saxifrage. A homely species—scape 1°—2° high, upright; leaves 4′—8′ long.—May, June.

Sp. 66. SULLIVANTIA OHIONIS. Torr. and Gr.

Com. name—Sullivantia. Scapes 8′—12′ high; leaves 2′ across.—June.

Besides these, we have *Saxifraga virginiensis*, *heuchera pubescens*, *Mitella diphylla*, &c., all of which should be investigated.

SUB ORDER II.—HYDRANGEÆ. (*Hydrangea Family.*)

Sp. 67. HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS. Linn.

Com. names—Wild Hydrangea, Bissum. Shrubs 2°—4° high; cymes flat; flowers often all fertile.—July.

Dr. Eoff has found the leaves tonic, sialagogue, cathartic and diuretic. Used in decoction or powder.—(Rafinesque Med. Flor. Vol. II. 229.)

ORDER XXV.—UMBELLIFERÆ. (*Parsley Family.*)

This is an important order, and well represented in our Dispensatories; but the American species are sadly neglected by our physicians.

Sp. 68. SIUM LATIFOLIUM. Linn.

Com. name—Broad-leafed Water Parsnip. Plant 2°—5° high. Leaflets 7—11.—July, Sept.

Deleterious plant, yet deemed diuretic, emmenagogue, herpetic and lithontriptic. Leaves used for obstinate cutaneous diseases, 6 spoonfuls of juice in a day, said not to hurt the head, stomach, nor bowels.—(Rafinesque Med. Flor. Vol. II. 264.)

Sp. 69. OSMORRHIZA LONGISTYLIS. D. C.

Com. name—Sweet Cicely. Plant 3° high, branching.—May, June.

Sweet aromatic, much of the flavor of Anise.

Sp. 70. THASPIUM BARBINODE. Nutt.

Com. name—Meadow Parsnip. Flowers yellow; fruit eliptical.—June.

Sp. 71. THASPIUM ATROPURPUREUM. Nutt. Syn. *Th. Cordatum.* Torr. and Gr.

Com. name—Round Heart. Flowers dark-purple; stem 1° —2° high.—June.

Vulnary, anti-syphilitic, sudorific, antidote to Rattle-snake bites.—(Rafinesque, 267.) This is an active genus of plants, and deserves to be studied and examined.

Sp. 72. ANGELICA LUCIDA. Linn.

Com. names—Angelic root, Belly-ache root, Nendo, White root. Introduced—bitterish, sub-acrid, fragrant, aromatic, stomachic and tonic.—(Rafinesque, 192.) I have ventured to put it down an Ohio plant on the authority of Riddell.

ORDER XXVI.—CAPRIFOLIACEÆ. (*Honey Suckle Family.*)

Not an active order, yet grouped and closely allied to those that are.

TRIBE I.—LONICERÆ. (*Honey Suckle Tribe.*)

Sp. 73. SYMPHORICARPUS RACEMOSUS. Michx.

Com. name—Snowberry. Berries large, bright-white, remaining till Winter.—June, September.

Root tonic, astringent, used for agues in Virginia. Bark used for syphilis by western tribes. Active fibrifuge in small doses.—(Rafinesque, 266.)

Sp. 74. Diervilla trifida. Mœnch.

Com. name—Bush Honey Suckle. Flowers honey colored, not showy.—June, Aug.

It has been used as a diuretic in gonorrhœa and syphilis, &c.—(Rafinesque, 216.)

Tribe II.—SAMBUCEÆ. (*Elder Tribe.*)

Sp. 75. Viburnum lentago. Linn.

Com. names—Sweet Viburnum, Nannyberry. Tree 15°—20° high; very handsome.—May, June.

Dr. Kreider says it has the reputation of curing intermittents equal to *cinchona*. If such are its properties, it is time for us to attend to it.

Sp. 76. Viburnum dentatum. Linn.

Com. names—Arrow Wood, Mealy Tree, Tily of the Indians. Shrub 5°—10° high; common.—June.

Contains a peculiar fragrant oil. Bark used by the Indians and Shakers as a diuretic. Used in decoction also to prevent and remove cancerous affections.—(Rafinesque, 274.)

Sp. 77. Viburnum prunifolium. Linn.

Com. names—Black Haw, Sloe leaved Viburnum. Tree like shrub, very handsome in flowers and foliage.—May.

Leaves used for tea in the south—(Rafinesque.)

Order XXVII.—CORNACEÆ. (*Dogwood Family*)

Besides those well known, and represented in our Dispensatories we have.

Sp. 78. Cornus paniculata. L'Her.

Com. name—Panicled Cornel. Shrub 4°—8° high.—June. Substitute for C. Florida.

Sp. 79. Cornus stolonifera. Michx. Syn. *C. Alba Wang.*

Com. names—Osier Rouge, Red Osier Cornel.

Forms large dense clumps 3°—6° high

An infusion of the bark of the young twigs will allay vomiting.—(Riddell.)

Order XXVIII.—RUBIACEÆ. (*Madder Family.*)

This, including its Sub orders, is one of the most important in medical Botany: in the foreign representatives of which, will be found *Cinchona*, *Ipecacuanha*, *Coffee*, and among our natives *Spigelia*, &c.

SUB ORDER I.—STELLATÆ. (*True Madder Family.*)

Sp. 80. GALIUM CIRCÆZANS. Michx.

Com. names—Wild Liquorice, Master of the Woods. About 1° high. Flowers purple.—June, Aug.

Demulcent, expectorant and diuretic. It is quite popular as a domestic remedy.

Sp. 81. GALIUM ASPRELLUM. Michx.

Com. name—Rough Ladies Bed Straw. Stems weak, reaching 4°—5° high. Flowers numerous, small.—July.

Actively diueretic, like most of its congeners.

SUB ORDER II.—CINCHONEÆ. (*Cinchona Family.*)

Sp. 82. CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS. Linn.

Com. names—Button Bush, White Ball, Little Snow Ball, Swamp Wood, Pond Dogwood, Globe Flower. Shrub 4°—10° high.—July, Aug. Abundant.

Rafinesque speaks highly of its virtues, and Griffith in noticing it, remarks that it deserves a fair trial at the hands of the profession.

Sp. 83. MITCHELLA REPENS. Linn.

Com. name—Partridge Berry. Pretty little trailing evergreen.—June, July.

By some it is regarded as an expectorant and emmenagogue, (Riddell.) Others as a mild diuretic; used in New England, to cure dropsy and gout.—(Rafinesque.) From its relationship it should command sufficient attention to determine its virtues.

ORDER XXIX.—VALERIANACEÆ. (*Valerian Family.*)

Sp. 84. VALERIANA PAUCIFLORA. Michx.

Com. name—American Valerian. Stems 1°—2° high.—Flowers pale pink.—June.

Said by Riddell to possess tonic, anti-spasmodic and vermifuge properties.

Sp. 85. VALERIANA CILIATA. Torr. and Gr.

Com. name—Fringed Valerian. Stem 2°—4° high; flowers polygamous, the pistillate smaller, greenish white.—June.

I know nothing by experience of these plants, but their affinities would seem to indicate their possession of useful properties. They are worthy of investigation.

ORDER XXX.—COMPOSITÆ. (*Compound Family.*)

This is one of the largest orders of North American phenogamous plants embracing over 900 species.

Sp. 86. Vernonia noveboracensis. Wild.

Com. names—Iron Weed, Flat Top. Tall coarse weed; flowers purple.—Aug. Sept.

Reported to be an active purgative. (Riddell.)

Sp. 87. Eupatorium sessilifolium. Linn.

Com. name—Upland Bone Set. Stems (with us) 2°—2½° high, very much resembles *E. perfoliatum;* flowers white.—Aug. Sept.

Tonic according to Riddell. (Syn. West. Flor. 56.)

Sp. 88. Eupatorium ageratoides. Linn.

Com. name—White Snake root. Stem 2°—3° high; flowers white.—Aug. Sept.

Anti-spasmodic, diuritic, diaphoretic. Used in nervous diseases. Dose 3i in infusion. (Riddell.)

It was thought at one time to be the cause of trembles in cattle and milk sickness in the human family.—(Sullivant's Cat. pl. Columb. 58.)

Sp. 89. Eupatorium aromaticum. Linn.

Com. name—Fragrant Eupatorium. Flowers very white, resembles the last.—Aug. Sept.

A very pretty species, and doubtless possesses the properties of 88.

Sp. 90. Erigeron bellidifolium. Muhl.

Com. name—Robins Plantain.

Rays (about 50) bright blueish purple, common.—May.

Bitterish, pungent, diuretic. (Rafinesque.)

Sp. 91. Solidago rigida. Linn.

Com. names—Rigid Golden Rod, Bones Styptic. Plant 2° —3° high. Heads large, yellow.—August, September.

Astringent, styptic, corroborant. (Riddell.)

Sp. 92. Solidago ohioensis. (Ridd.)

Com. name—Ohio Golden Rod. Plant 2°—3° high, root leaves 1° long.—Aug. Sept.

Besides these, we have upwards of 20 other species of Golden rod, among which I have not a doubt, some will be found valuable.

Sp. 93. Silphium terebinthinaceum. Linn.

Com. names—Prairie Burdock, Rosin Weed. Stem slender 1°—10° high, the thick root leaves 1°—2° long.—July, Sept.

Sp. 94. Silphium perfoliatum. Linn.

Com. names—Cup Plant, Turpentine Sun Flower. Stem 4°—6° high, leaves thin.—July.

These and some other species, yield a fragrant gum, which is stimulant and anti-spasmodic. (Griffith Med. Bot. l. c.)

Sp. 95. Ambrosia trifida. Linn.

Com. names—Great Ra Weed, Horse Weed, Wild Hemp. Coarse unsightly plant 4°—12° high.

Appears to be highly beneficial in arresting excessive salivation. (Griffith, Med. Bot. 387.)

Sp. 96. Echinacea purpurea. Mœnch.

Com. names — Purple Cone Flower, Black Sampson.—Flowers dull purple, rather handsome.—July.

Root thick, black, very pungent to the taste; aromatic and carminative, little known. (Riddell, West. Flor. 58.)

Sp. 97. Coreopsis trichosperma. Michx.

Com. name—Tick Weed Sunflower. Rays large, golden yellow.—September.

This and several other species of the genus, and the closely allied genus *Bidens*, yield a good deal of coloring principle.—The seeds are said to be alterative. In what cases they are indicated, I do not know. (Riddell, Syn. West. Flor. 59.)

Sp. 98. Aster cordifolius. Linn.

Com. name—Heart Leaved Aster. Rays pale blue, heads in great profusion, but quite small.—September.

Sp. 99. Aster puniceus. Linn.

Com. name—Rough Stemmed Aster. Stem 3°—6° high. Rays lilac-blue.—September.

The roots of these and several other species, are said to be aromatic and anti-spasmodic. They are very common plants, and more of their qualities should be known. (Griffith, Med. Bot. 387.)

Sp. 100. Artemisia biennis. Willd.

Com. name—Biennial Worm Wood.

Tonic and anthelmintic. Requires examination.

Sp. 101. Antennaria dioica. Gærtn. Syn. *Gnaphalium Dioïcum.* Linn.

Com. name—Diœcious Everlasting.

Pectoral and demulcent. (Griffith, Med. Bot. 407.)

Sp. 102. Erechthites hieracifolia. Raf.

Com. names — Fire Weed, Ra Root. Syn. *Senecio Hieracifolius.* Linn.

Plant 1°—8° high, somewhat the aspect of a sow thistle; very common.—July, Sept.

Some diplomatized Quack, I see by the Eastern papers, is lauding this plant as an infalible specific in cholera. It is a very common and disagreeable weed. Rafinesque, (Med. Fl. 2nd, 262,) says in large doses it is emetic.

Vulnerary, acrid tonic, and astringent.

Sp. 103. Nabalus albus. Hook. Syn. *Prenanthes Serpentaria.* Pursh.

Com. names—White Lettuce, Lion's Foot, Rattle Snakes Master, Rattle Snake Root. Stem tall (3°—7° high,) corymbose panicled at the summit; pappus deep cinnamon color; flowers greenish white.—Aug.

This and several other species of the genus, possess a reputation for curing the bites of Rattle snakes.—(Pursh.) The roots are also used in dysentery. (Griffith, 387.).

Sp. 104. Hieracium venosum. Linn.

Com. names—Rattle Snake Weed, Veiny Hawk Weed.—Plant 1°—2° high; rays large, for the size of the head.—Aug.

This and other plants of the genus, of which we have several, are supposed to possess bitter, astringent and narcotic qualities. [Riddell, Syn. West. Fl. 47.]

Sp. 105. Mulgedium acuminatum. D. C.

Com. name—Blue Lettuce. Syn. *Lactuca Villosus.* Jacq.

Biennial 3°—6° high; pappus bright white, flowers blue.—August.

Sp. 106. M. Floridanum. D. C. Syn. *Lactuca Floridana.* Gærtn. *Sonchus Floridanus.* Linn.

Com. name—False Lettuce.

Biennial 3°—6° high; flowers blue.—Aug.

They have the reputation of curing the bites of Rattle snakes. From their close affinity to the officinal *Lactucas*, I have no doubt on examination, they will be found to possess narcotic and alterative qualities worthy of attention and use.

Order XXXI.—ERICACEÆ. [*Heath Family.*]

Sub order I. Vaccineæ. [*Whortleberry Family.*]

Sp. 107. Gaylussacia resinosa. Torr. and Gr. Syn. *Vaccinium Resinosum.* Auct.

Com. name—Black Huckleberry. Shrub 1°—3° high.—Flowers reddish, tinged with green.—May, June. Fruit sweet and pleasant.

Sp. 108. Vaccinium stamineum. Linn.

Com. names—Buck Berry, Squaw Huckle Berry, Deer Berry. Shrub 2°—4°. Berries greenish.—May, June.

The leaves of these plants are astringent, and have been used in tanning leather. [Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2nd, 272.]

Sp. 109. Vaccinium macrocarpon. Ait. Syn. *Oxycoccus Macrocarpus.* Pers.

Com. name—Common American Cranberry. Stems trailing 2°—3° long, corolla rose color. Berries light scarlet.

Wood and Bache, I believe, hardly mention these plants, yet the sweetened juice of these acidulous fruits, are peculiarly cooling and grateful, in nearly all our malarial and inflammatory fevers.

Sub order II. Ericineæ. [*True Heath Family.*]

Sp. 110. Rhododendron maximum. Linn

Com. names—Great Laurel, American Rose Bay. Shrub 6°—20° high; leaves 4′—10′ long; very thick evergreen.—Flowers pale rose color, very ornamental.—July.

Stimulant and astringent according to Bigelow, Barton and Griffith. Rafinesque says the bark increases the heat of the body, excites thirst, and increases the secretions and excretions. Used for rheumatism and gout by the Indians. [Med. Flor. 256.]

Sub order III. Pyroleæ. [*Winter Green Family.*]

Sp. 111. Chimaphila maculata. Pursh. Syn. *Pyrola Maculata* Linn.

Com. names—Spotted Pipsiseway, Spotted Wintergreen, White Pipsiseway, King Cure, Ground Holly, Rheumatism Weed.—June, July.

This plant grows abundantly on our hills, and is a good substitute for *C. Umbellata.* Griffith, [Med. Bot. 423,] remarks that there is a popular prejudice against this plant, so much as to render the belief of its poisonous properties prevalent, and he also asserts that Dr. Mitchell thinks that it is wholly inert. Both of these prejudices are unfounded, for I have used it freely, and believe it equal in every respect to its elegant congener, which is not by any means too highly lauded.

Sub order IV. Monotropeæ. [*Indian Pipe Family.*]

Sp. 112. Hypopithys lanuginosa. Nutt.

Com. name—American Pine Sap, False Beech Drops, Birdsnest. Plant 4′—10′ high, velvety.—June, Aug.

Equivalent of *Monotropa.*

Sp. 113. Monotropa uniflora. Linn.

Com. names—Indian Pipe, Ice Plant, Nest root, Fit root, Pipe plant. Stem 4′—8′ high. Stem, leaves and flowers, all white.—June, Aug.

Said to be ophthalmic and nervine. A teaspoonful of the dried root powdered is used in epilepsy and convulsions of children; often united to *valerian*. [Rafinesque, 243.]

ORDER XXXII.—AQUIFOLIACEÆ. [*Holly Family.*]

Sp. 114. ILEX OPACA. Ait.

Com. name—American Holly. Tree 20°—40° high, evergreen; red.—June.

Powerful diuretic; much used in domestic practice. [Rafinesque Med. Flor. 2nd vol. 8.]

Sp. 115. PRINOS LÆVIGATUS. Pursh.

Com. name—Smooth Winter Berry. Shrub 4°—8° high; leaves thin 1′—2′ long.—June.

These plants with the *P. Verticillatus*, are frequently used in domestic practice. They appear to be active in their properties; but little however, is known of them in the profession.

ORDER XXXIII.—PRIMULACEÆ. [*Primrose Family.*]

TRIBE I. PRIMULÆ. [*Primrose Family.*]

Sp. 116. LYSIMACHIA QUADRIFOLIA. Linn.

Com. names—Four-leaved Loose Strife, Crosswort. Plant perennial 1° high.—June.

Sub astringent, stomachic, expectorant; used in tea for colds, coughs and agues, &c. [Rafinesque Med. Flor. 2d, 240.]

ORTER XXXIV.—BIGNONIACEÆ. [*Trumpet Flower Family.*]

Sp. 117. CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES. Walt.

Com. names—Catawba, Indian Bean. Cultivated ornamental tree, 20°—40° high.—July.

Said to have a vermifuge bark and emetic wood. A decoction of the pods has been recommended in pectoral complaints, and the dried seeds smoked like tobacco, have proved useful in asthma. [Griffith, Med. Bot., l. c.]

Sp. 118. TECOMA RADICANS. Juss. Syn. *Bignonia radicans*. Linn.

Com. names—Trumpet Creeper, Trumpet Flower, Virginian Creeper. Woody vine, climbing to the tops of trees by rootlets. Flowers orange and scarlet, showy.—July.

Leaves acrid, depurative, mild, equivalent of *Stillingia*.—[Rafinesque, 267.]

ORDER XXXV.—SCROPHULARIACEÆ. [*Figwort Family.*]

TRIBE I. ANTIRRHINIDEÆ. [*Snap Dragon Tribe.*]

Sp. 119. SCROPHULARIA NODOSA. Linn. Syn. *Scrophularia marilandica*. Linn. *S. Lanceolata*. Pursh.

Com. names—Common Figwort, Holmes Weed, Heal All.

Stem tall; 3°—8° high; 4-sided. Flowers small, greenish purple.—July.

This plant and its synonymes, have heretofore been considered distinct, even by Linnæus himself. By our latest and best authors, however, they are decided to be identical. Consequently what has been said of the foreign plant, will apply equally to this. It enjoys considerable reputation in domestic practice.

Sp. 120. Chelone Glabra. Linn.

Com. names—Turtle Head, Snake Head, Balmony, Shell Flower. Perennial 1°—4° high. Flowers rose color or purple.—July, September.

Griffith says if it possesses the qualities attributed to it by Rafinesque, it will prove a valuable addition to the Materia Medica.

According to Rafinesque, it is a powerful tonic, cathartic, hepatic, and anti-herpetic. The whole plant may be used, but the leaves are best. In small doses it is laxative, but in full doses it purges the bile, removing the yellowness of the skin in jaundice, &c. Dose of the powdered leaves 3i. 3 times daily. [Med. Flor. Vol. II. p. 118.] Thompsonians use it.

Sp. 121. Gratiola aurea. Muhl.

Com. name—Golden Hedge Hyssop. Stems creeping at the base. Flowers golden yellow; handsome.—June, Sept.

Said to be equal, if not superior to the officinal *Gratiola* of the shops. Not used in this country, but certainly deserves attention. [Griffith.]

Tribe II. Rhinanthideæ. [*Yellow Rattle Tribe.*]

Veronica peregrina. Linn.

Com. names—Neck weed, Purslane Speed well. Cultivated grounds, common, naturalized. Flowers whiteish.—Apl. June.

It is given internally, and used externally as a wash in scrofulous tumors of the neck in some parts of the U. S.—[Griffith.] We have several other species that will be found in our books.

Order XXXVI.—LABIATEÆ. [*Mint Family.*]

The presence of an aromatic oil and a bitter principle, are universal features of this order, upon which depend their tonic, cordial, and stomachic qualities.

Sp. 123. Blephilia hirsuta. Benth.

Com. names—Ohio Horse Mint, Hairy Horse Mint. Perrennial 2°—3° high, corolla pale, with darker purple spots.—July. Thought to be equivalent of *Monarda Punctata.*

Sp. 124. Pycnanthemum incanum. Michx.

Com. names—Common Mountain Mint, Wild Basil Perennial plant 2°—4° high; corolla whiteish.—Aug.

Sp. 125. Pycnanthemum linifolium. Pursh.

Com. name—Virginian Thyme. Plant 2° high.—July.
Small dense heads.
Smell of these plants very fragrant; taste intermediate between that of *Penny-royal* and *Spearmint.* Used medicinally by the inhabitants of Sandusky plains. [Riddell.] I should think they were superior to many other Labiates.

Sp. 126. Lycopus sinuatus. Ell.

Com. names—Water Horehound, Gypsey weed, Paul's Betony. Stem perennial, smoothish, 1°—2° high; flowers densely clustered.—Aug.
This and the *L. Virginicus*, grow abundantly with us. In 1828, Rafinesque, [Med. Flor. Vol. II pp. 26–30,] gave a good account of these herbs, indicating their properties, and the diseases in which they are peculiarly indicated. With the exception of a few physicians, who have used and recommended them, they have remained in obscurity, until Dr. Davis published an account of *L. Virginicus* in the Proceedings of the National Medical Association for 1848. Nothing new with regard to its applicability to particular pathological states was added by Dr. Davis. He deserves credit, however, for resuscitating an American plant, which promises to rival, or even supersede the far-famed *Digitalis.* The sensible properties of *L. Sinuatus* correspond with the *L. Virginicus*, and from the trials I have made with it, believe it equal. In some respects it may be superior. It deserves at any rate to have its medicinal relations exactly fixed.

Sp. 127. Scutellaria canescens. Nutt.

Com. name—Hoary Skull Cap. Plant 2°—3° high; flowers blue, in terminal racemes; panicled, hoary.—July.

This and several other species, are said by Riddell to possess good diaphoretic properties. [Synop. West. Flor. p. 80.]

Sp. 128. Leonurus cardiaca. Linn.

Com. name—Motherwort. Perennial 2°—5° high; corolla bearded, pale purple. Naturalized; waste places, around houses.—July, Sept.

Stimulant and pectoral. Used for coughs and catarrhs.—[Rafinesque 236.] Dr. Brocket in the *West. Lancet*, has given an account of it.

Sp. 129. Lamium amplexicaule. Linn.

Com. names—Dead Nettle, Henbit. Annual herbs, decumbent; corolla purple. Naturalized, waste places.—May, Oct.

Said to be corroborant, cephalic, sudorific and laxative.—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 235.)

Order XXXVII.—POLEMONIACEÆ. (*Greek Valerian Family.*)

Sp. 130. Polemonium reptans. Linn.

Com. names—False Jacob's Ladder, Greek Valerian, Sweat Root. Perennial, low branching, but not creeping; flowers nodding, blue.—May.

I have known this plant used as an expectorant in domestic practice. Riddell says the steam doctors use it as sudorific.—(Syn. West. Flor. 68.)

Order XXXVIII.—CONVOLVULACEÆ. (*Scammony Family.*)

Sp. 131. Convolvulus arvensis. Linn.

Com. name—Bind Weed. Stem procumbent or twining.—A troublesome naturalized weed.—June.

This, with several other species are common, and belong to an active family.

Sp. 132. Cuscuta glomerata. Chois and C. Chlorocarpa. Engl.

Com. name—Dodder, American Dodder.

Leafless annual herbs, with reddish or yellow thread like twining stems, at length parasitic.

These, and several other species of the genus, have very generally been confounded under the term of *C. Americana.*

Rafinesque says they are bitterish, sub-astringent, stomachic, febrifuge and anti-scrofulous. Useful in decoction for agues and scrofula. (Med. Flor., Vol. II, p. 214.)

Order XXXIX.—GENTIANACEÆ. (*Gentian Family.*)

Sp. 133. Gentiana quinqueflora. Lam.

Com. name—Five Flowered Gentian. Annual, 1°—2° high; corolla light purplish-blue; 1′ long nearly.—Aug. Sept.

Sp. 134. Gentiana crinita. Frœl.

Com. name—Fringed Gentian. Biennial? Plants 1°—2° high; corolla sky-blue, 2′ long, showy.—Sept.

Both highly tonic, but much neglected plants.

Order XL.—ASCLEPIADACEÆ. (*Milk Weed Family.*)

Sp. 135. Asclepias sullivantii. Englm.

Com. names—Smooth Milk Weed, Silk Weed. 3°—4° high.—July.

Very much resembles *A. Cornuti* Decaisne, which has hitherto passed for *A. Syriaca*, L. Doubtless often mistaken for it, and possessing similar virtues.

Sp. 136. Acerates longifolia. Ell.

Com. name—Long-leaved Green Milk Weed. Perennial plants 1°—2° high ; flowers greenish, tinged with yellow and purple.—June, July.

Resembles *Asclepias*. We have many species belonging to this rather active order, which I think will amply repay scientific investigation.

Order XLI—OLEACEÆ. (*Olive Family.*)

Sp. 137. Fraxinus americana. Linn.

Com. name—White Ash. Large forest tree. Leaflets 7—9 stalked.—April, May.

Sp. 138. Fraxinus quadrangulata. Michx.

Com. name—Blue Ash. A large tree; leaflets 5—9. Timber valuable.

According to Rafinesque and Griffith, the barks of these and others of the genus, are bitter and astringent, and formerly, were much employed in the treatment of intermittents. They are said also, to remove splenic enlargements. (Riddell.)

Order XLII.—POLYGONACEÆ. (*Knot Weed Family.*)

Sp. 139. Polygonum virginianum. Linn.

Com. names — Wand-spiked Persicaria, Virginian Bistort. Stem angled, upright 2°—4°. Spike 10′—20′ long.—August. Astringent, diuretic, sub-tonic, &c.

Besides this, and those well known in our Dispensatories, we have eight or ten species, some of which are doubtless superior equivalents.

Sp. 140. Rumex veticillatus. Linn.

Com. name—Swamp Dock. Stem 2°—4° high. Grain ¼ to ½ the width of the valve.—June, July.

We have also, nearly all that are spoken of in our Dispensatories. They are acquiring so much reputation, as to become introduced into Quack nostrums. Patient investigation will determine their good qualities.

Order XLIII.—SANTALACEÆ. (*Sandal Wood Family.*)

Sp. 141. Comandra umbellata. Nutt.

Com. name—Bastard Toad-flax. Low (8′—10′ high.) Perennial herb, and greenish white flowers.—May, June.

Used for fevers by the Algic tribes. (Rafinesque 2d, 212.)

ORDER XLIV.—LORANTHACEÆ. (*Mistletoe Family.*)

Sp. 142. VISCUM FLAVESCENS. Pursh.

Com. name — Yellowish Mistletoe. Shrubby, parasitic plants, on the trunks of old trees.—April.

Given in tea or powder for epilepsy, vertigo, pleurisy dysentery, &c. By no means inert, although now neglected.—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. Vol. II, p. 275.)

ORDER XLV.—ULMACEÆ. (*Elm Family.*)

Sp. 143. CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS. Linn.

Com. names—Sugar-berry, Hack-berry. A large tree, with the aspect of an *elm;* drupes as large as bird cherries.—May.

Rafinesque says the bark is anodyne and cooling. The berries sweet and astringent. Useful in dysentery. (Med. Flor. Vol. II. 206.)

ORDER XLVI.—SAURURACEÆ. (*Lizzard's Tail Family*)

Sp. 144. SAURURUS CERNUUS. Linn.

Com. name—Lizzard's Tail. A perennial marsh herb 1°—1½° high; flowers white. Spike 3′—6′ long, drooping at the end.—June.

Rafinesque says it is useful in lumbago. (Med. Flor. 261.) Little else known of it.

ORDER XLVII.—EUPHORBIACEÆ. (*Spurge Family.*)

Sp. 145. EUPHORBIA MACULATA. Linn.

Com. names—Spotted Spurge, Milk-purslane. Annual, prostrate herbs.—June, Sept.

Sp. 146. E. HYPERICIFOLIA. Linn.

Com. name—Larger Spotted Spurge. Resembles the preceeding, but larger in all its parts.—July, Sept.

These are very common plants, and belong to a well known active Family, and I believe if properly investigated, would be found useful in a variety of diseases.

Sp. 147. ACALYPHA VIRGINICA. Linn.

Com. name—Three Seedded Mercury. A homely weed 1°—2° high; common.—Aug.

Expectorant, diuretic.—(Riddell, Syn. West. Flor. 30.) Little also is known of it.

ORDER XLVIII.—JUGLANDACEÆ. (*Walnut Family.*)

Sp. 148. JULGLANS NIGRA. Linn.

Com. name—Black Walnut. Large, well known, valuable tree,—May. Fruit, Oct.

Leaves may be substituted for *J. regia*. Fleshy pericarp; acrid, stimulant. Good in herpetic eruptions.

Order XLIX.—SALICACEÆ. (*Willow Family.*)

Sp. 149. Salix alba. Linn. Syn. *S. Viellina.* Smith.

Com. name—White Willow. Introduced, 50°—80° high.—May, June.

Sp. 150. Salix humilis. Marshall.

Com. names—Low Bush Willow, Speckled Willow. Shrub 3°—8° high; catkins appearing before the leaves.

It is pretty well decided, that *Salicine* is not an equivalent of *Quinine*, and I can readily imagine, that in our anxiety to discover a cheap substitute for Quinine, in this and other substances, we may overlook qualities, valuable, if properly directed.

Sp. 151. Populus candicans. Ait.

Com. name—Balm of Gilead Poplar. A large tree. Aments long and drooping; appearing before the leaves.

We have four or five species of these trees, and from the fact of their yielding *Salicine*, as well as a peculiar principle termed by Braconnot *Populine*, I think they deserve more extensive and accurate observations.

Order L.—URTICACEÆ. (*Nettle Family.*)

Tribe I.—MOREÆ. (*Mulberry Tribe.*)

Sp. 152. Morus rubra. Linn.

Com. names—Black Mulberry, Wild Mulberry. A small tree, ripening its blackberry like fruit in July. Flowers frequently dicœcious.—May.

Bark, vermifuge. Said by Rafinesque to expel tænia.—(Med. Flor. Vol. II. p. 243.)

Tribe II.—URTICEÆ. (*Nettle Tribe proper.*)

Sp. 153. Pilea pumila. Gray.

Com. names—Cool-weed, Rich-weed. Plant 4′—18′ high, annual; the smooth stems pellucid.—July, Sept.

As a wash, they cure the topical poison of Rhus. Its peculiar, grateful strong smell, indicates other properties. (Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2, 186.)

Sp. 154. Parietaria pennsyvanica. Muhl.

Com. name—American Pellitory. A small, homely, annual weed.—June, Aug.

Juice or decoction used as diuretic, deobstruent, menagogue, in gravel, nephritis, suppressions and obstructions.—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2d, 250.)

ORDER LI.—ARACEÆ. (*Indian Turnip Family.*)

Sp. 155. PELTANDRA VIRGINICA. Raf. Syn. *Arum Virginicum.* Linn. *Lecontia.* Torr. *Rensselæria.* Beck.

Com. names—Arrow Arum, Taraho, Wampee. Fresh roots and seeds; acrid, pungent, stimulant. Equivalent to *Arum.* —(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2d. 257.)

ORDER LII.—TYPHACEÆ. (*Cat-tail Family.*)

Sp. 156. TYPHA LATIFOLIA. Linn.

Com. names—Common Cat-tail, Reed Mace. Stem 4°—5° high; leaves as long. Flowers in a long and very dense cylindrical spike.—July.

Sp. 157. SPARGANIUM RAMOSUM. Hudson.

Com. name—Great Burr-Reed. Stem 2° or more high.—Flowers collected in separate dense spherical heads.—July, August.

Roots, sub-astringent, febrifuge, esculent, yielding a fine fecula, similar to *Salep.*—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2d. 270.)

I have known the roots made into a poultice for inflamed breasts used with success.

ORDER LIII.—ALISMACEÆ. (*Water Plantain Family.*)

Sp. 158. SAGITTARIA VARIABILIS. Englm.

Com. name—Arrow-head, Arrow-leaf, Wapata of Oregon.

Esculent, yielding fecula like *Arrow root.* Roots, refrigerant, sub-astringent; useful, applied to feet for yaws, and dropsical legs. Leaves applied to breasts, dispel milk of nurses, like *Ricinus.*—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2d. 259.)

ORDER LIV.—ORCHIDACEÆ. [*Orchis Family.*]

TRIBE I.—MALAXIDEÆ.

Sp. 159. APLECTRUM HYEMALE. Nutt.

Com. name—Putty root, Adam and Eve. Scape 1° high; leaf, large, oval; many, nerved and plicate. Flowers, dingy, greenish-purple.—May, June.

Yields a very viscid juice when inspissated by boiling, good cement for glass.

TRIBE II.—OPHRYDEÆ.

Sp. 160. PLATANTHERA ORBICULATA. Lindl.

Com. name—Large Round-leaved Orchis. Scape 1°—2° high. Flowers, pedicelled, spreading, greenish-white.—July.

Leaves large, soft and fleshy, forming an excellent dressing for blisters.

Tribe III.—ARETHUSEÆ.

Sp. 161. Arethusa bulbosa. Linn.

Com. name—Arethusa. Flower 1′—2′ long, very handsome. Bruised bulbs, useful for toothache, and in cataplasms for tumours.—[Shœpf.] [Rafinesque.]

Tribe IV.—NEOTTIAÆ.

Sp. 172. Goodyera pubescens. R. Br.

Com. names—Rattlesnake Plantain, Net Wort, Net Leaf, Scrofula Weed.

Used by empirics in scrofula, internally in decoction, externally by cataplasm.—(Rafinesque.)

Tribe V.—CYPRIPEDEÆ.

Sp. 163. Cypripedium pubescens. Willd.

Com. name—Larger Yellow Lady's Slipper. Stem 2° high; flower scentless.—May, June.

Sp. 164. C. Spectabile. Swartz.

Com. name—Showy Lady's Slipper. Stem 2° high. Stout, very leafy. Lip 1½′ in diameter; the most beautiful of the genus.—July.

Sp. 165. Cypripedium acaule. Ait.

Com. names—Stemless Lady's Slipper, Moccasin Flower, Nervine. Downy; scape, 8′—12′ high; lip, purple, sometimes pale. 2′ long, veiny.—May, June.

Roots, employed by Indians and Steam doctors, under the name of *nervine*, as a sedative and anti-spasmodic, in hysteria chorea, and kindred diseases. Supposed to act like *Valerian*. I have, however, seen it administered frequently, but could never detect the slighest appreciable effect whatever.

Order LV.—AMARYLLIDACEÆ. (*Amaryllis Family.*)

Sp. 166. Hypoxys erecta. Linn.

Com. name—Star-grass. Scape 4′—6′ high, 1—4 flowered, yellow; leaves, grass like.—July.

Root edible, vulnerary and febrifuge. Used in chronic ulcers and agues.—(Rafinesque, Med. Flor. Vol. II. p. 230.)

Order LVI.—IRIDACEÆ. (*Flower De Luce Family.*)

Sp. 167. Iris lacustris. Nutt.

Com. names—Dwarf-flag, Dwarf Lake Iris. Plants perennial, 3′—4′ high in blossom, pale-blue.—May.

Cathartic, diuretic and astringent. See *I. versicolor* for which it is equivalent.

Sp. 168. Sisyrinchium bermudianum. Linn.

Com. name—Blue-eyed Grass, Lily Grass, Physic Grass, Scurvy Grass. Low, slender, perennial; flowers small delicate blue, changing to purplish 4—6 opening in succession.—June, August.

Used by Thompsonians as a purgative. Root, yellow; acrid, decoction purgative.—(Rafinesque, 2d. 264.)

Order LVII.—DIOSCOREACEÆ. (*Yam Family.*)

Sp. 169. Dioscorea villosa. Linn.

Com. name—Wild Yam Root. Plant herbaceous, twining, slender vine; flowers, very small, pale greenish yellow.—July.

"An infusion of the roots, is unquestionably a valuable remedy in bilious colic. An ounce of the powdered root is to be boiled in a pint of water and half of it given at once. It acts with remarkable promptitude. I have been informed that Dr. Millar, of Neville, Ohio, values the tincture highly, as an expectorant. He says it is also diaphoretic, and in large doses emetic."—(Riddell, Synopsis West. Flor. 91.)

Order LVIII.—SMILACEÆ. (*Sarsaparilla Family.*)

Sub-order I.—SMILACEÆ. (*True Sarsaparilla Family.*)

Sp. 170. Smilax glauca. Walt. Syn. *Smilax Sarsaparilla.* Wild.

Com. names—Glaucus Green-brier, American Sarsaparilla. Shrub, climbing by tendrils sparingly prickly; branches terete; flowers greenish.—June.

Sp. 171. S. Pseudo-china. Linn.

Com. name—Sarsaparilla. Climbing shrub; stems and branches terete, unarmed; leaves strongly 5-nerved.—June?

These, with the *S. Rotundifolia* and *S. Quadrangularis*, are natives of Ohio, and are said to be equal in every respect to the foreign article of which so much is used, (empirically and otherwise,) at this time.

Sub-order II.—TRILLIACEÆ. (*Trillium Family.*)

Sp. 172. Trillium erectum. Linn.

Com. names—Purple Trillium, Birth-root. Low, perennial herb bearing at the summit a whorl of 3 broadly ovate leaves; flower terminal, greenish white.—May.

Sp. 173. Tr. grandiflorum. Salisb.

Com. name—Large White Trillium. Flowers large, white; changing with age to rose color.—June.

Besides these, we have several other species of the genus. Rafinesque speaks highly of them, and considers them "as-

tringent, restringent, pectoral, tonic, anti-septic, alterative," &c.—(Med. Flor. 2d. 102.) Lindley says that De Candolle accounts the roots violently emetic, [Nat. Syst. Bot. 276.] while Riddell affirms, that Dr. Beach regards them as astringent, pectoral, tonic, anti-septic and alterative. It is evident that Beach has borrowed from Rafinesque all he knows of them. They deserve a proper investigation at our hands.

Order LIX.—LILIACEÆ. (*Lily Family.*)

Sub-order I.—ASPHODELIÆ. (*Asphodel Tribe.*)

Sp. 174. Scilla esculenta. Ker. Syn. *Phalangium Esculentum.* Nutt.

Com. names—Eastern Quamash, Wild Hyacinth. Scape, 1°—1½° high; leaves, long linear keeled; sepals spreading, pale-blue, 3-nerved. May.

Onion sweet. Famous as an article of diet among the western Indians. Rafinesque says it makes a fine bread, tasting like pumpkin bread. Makes a fine emollient poultice for inflamed breasts —[Med. Flor. Vol. 2d. 255.]

Sp. 175. Allium tricoccum. Ait.

Com. name—Wild Leeks, Ramps. Scape, naked, 9′ high; leaves in early Spring, decaying before flowering; sepals, white.—July.

We have two or three other species, which may probably be used as substitutes for the officinals.

Order LX.—MELANTHACEÆ. (*Colchicum Family.*)

Sub-order I.—UVULARIÆ. (*Bell-wort Family.*)

Sp. 176. Uvularia perfoliata. Linn.

Com. name—Smaller Bell-wort. Stems from small perennial, root stalks; flowers pale yellow, nodding lily like.—May, June.

Root, sub-acrid when fresh, with fine mucilage. Decoction of the plant useful in sore mouth, inflamed larynx and gums. Said to cure the bites of Rattlesnakes.—[Rafinesque, Med. Flor. 2d. 272.]

Sub-order II.—MELANTHIEÆ. (*True Colchicum Family.*)

I have ventured to put down all our western plants of this Family, as they are according to Lindley, acrid and poisonous in every species.—[Nat. Syst. Bot. 270.] It is very probable, also, that the active principle upon which *Colchicum* depends for its virtues, resides in some of them. For these reasons I think they deserve the special attention of our Faculty.

Sp. 177. Zygadenus glaucus. Nutt.

Com. name—Smooth Zygadene. Perennial; stems, naked above, 1° high; leaves, grass like; flowers greenish-white.—July. Rare.

Sp. 178. Melanthium virginicum. Linn.

Com. names—Quafidil, Melanthium. Perennial; stem 3°—4° high; leaves, grass like; flowers, cream colored, about ¾′ broad.—July.

A sure but violent remedy for itch. [Raf. 2d. 242.]

Sp. 179. Veratrum viride. Ait.

Com. names—American Hellebore, Itch-weed, Indian Poke, Earth-gall, Wolfbane. Stem, stout, very leafy to the top, 2°—4° high; perianth, yellowish-green.—June.

Root, very poisonous, Gray, (Bot. North. U. S. 500.) Acrid, emetic, powerfully stimulant, followed by sedative effects.—(Riddell.) (Raf. Med. Flor. 2d. 273.)

Sp. 180. Stenanthium angustifolium. Gray. Syn. *Veratrum Angustifolium.* Pursh.

Com. name—Grass-leaved Veratrum. Wand-like, leafy, slender stem, 2°—6° high; flowers, small white.—July.

Sp. 181. Chamælirium luteum. Gray. Syn. *Veratrum Luteum.* Linn. *Helonias Lutea.* Ait. *Helonias Dioica.* Pursh.

Com. names—Devil's-bit, Blazing Star. Perennial, wand-like stem; flowers, small, yellowish on a wand-like spike, at length 6′—10′ long.—June.

Acrid medicinal. An infusion of the root is anthelmintic. The tincture is tonic. (Riddell, West. Flor. 183.)

Sp. 182. Tofeildia glutinosa. Willd.

Com. name—False Asphodel. Slender, perennial; stem 1° high; flowers, greenish-white.—June.

Order LXI.—PONTEDERIACEÆ. (*Pickerel Weed Family.*)

Sp. 183. Pontederia cordata. Linn.

Com. names—Pickerel Weed, Shovel-leaf, Water Plantain. Stout herbs, growing in shallow water; scape, 1-leaved, terminated by a spike of violet-blue ephemeral flowers.—May, Sept.

The roots are emollient, restringent and anti-scrofulous; leaves form an excellent cooling topical application for inflammations on the surface. It may be employed in gleets, leucorrhœa, fluxes, and externally for scrofulous tumors and sores. (Raf. Med. Flor. 2d. 108.)

Order LXII.—COMMELYNACEÆ. (*Spider Wort Family.*)

Sp. 184. Commelyna virginica. Linn.

Com. name—Day-flower. Stems, perennial, upright, smooth; petals, blue; leaves, 5′—7′ long, 1′—2′ wide.—July.

Sp. 185. Tradescantia virginica. Linn.

Com. name—Spider's Wort. Stems, perennial mucilaginous; leaves keeled grass like; flowers in umbelled clusters; blue.—May, Aug.

Roots, anti-febrile, emollient, pectoral and anodyne. (Raf. Med. Flor. 2d. 212.)

Order LXIII.—XYRIDACEÆ. [*Yellow-eyed Grass Family.*]

Sp. 186. Xyris bulbosa. Kunth. Syn. *X. Indica.* Pursh. *X. Caroliniana.* Flor. Lan.

Com. name—Yellow-eyed Grass. Leaves, 1½′—8′, the scape 3′—14′ high. Petals minutely toothed at the summit, yellow.—July, Sept.

Roots and leaves used against lepra, and diseases of the skin by Hindus. [Raf. 3d. 276.]

Order LXIV.—GRAMINEÆ. [*Grass Family.*]

Sp. 187. Bromus ciliatus. Linn. Syn. *B. Purgans.* Linn.

Com. name—Brome Grass. Perennial culm, 3°—4° high. Said to be emetic, anthelmintic, &c., but doubted by Griffith, [Med. Bot. 663.] Rafinesque says it is sudorific, vermifuge, laxative, diuretic, menagogue, &c., and purges cattle. [Med. Flor. 2d. 202.]

Sp. 188. Bromus mollis. Linn.

Com. name—Soft Brome Grass. Biennial, sparingly naturalized.

Pareira, [Elm. Mat. Med. Vol. I. p. 122,] remarks that Loudon tells us that the seeds of this plant bring on giddiness in the human species and quadrupeds, and are fatal to poultry.—[Griffith, Med. Bot. 662.]

Order LXV.—EQUISETACEÆ. [*Horse-tail Family.*]

Sp. 189. Equisetum arvense. Linn.

Com. name—Horse-tail. Fertile stems, never branching 8′—15′ high.—April.

Astringent, diuretic, &c. Used in hæmaturia, gonorrhœa, phthisis, &c. [Raf. 2d. 217.]

Order LXVI.—FILICES. [*Fern Family.*]

Sp. 190. Polypodium incanum. Willd.

Com. names—Polypody, Rock Brake. Fronds, oblong 2′—5′ high.—July.

Pectoral, demulcent, purgative and vermifuge. Equivalent of *P. Vulgare*.

Sp. 191. Pteris aquilina. Linnæus.

Com. names—Common Brake, Eagle Fern, Bracken. Frond ternate at the summit of an erect, stout stalk, 1°—2° high. Whole frond, 2°—3° wide.

I have frequently used this plant as a substitute for the *German male fern*. In one case where the patient believed she was subject to tape worm; and was troubled at the same time with a chronic cough, the *Pteris* acted like a charm in removing the cough after a great variety of other means had been unavailingly resorted to. I have often since, prescribed it with good results, where there was no evidence of inflammatory action. It is preferable to the foreign *Filix Mas*, which frequently comes to us in a much deteriorated state. The subterranean root stalk, which very much resembles the roots of *Sarsaparilla* in appearance, is the part I use.

Sp. 192. Asplenium felix-fœmina. R. Br.

Com. names—Spleen Wort, Female Fern. Fronds 2-pinnate, 1°—3° high, smooth.—July.

Sp. 193. A. Thelypteroides. Michx.

Com. name—Showy Spleen-wort. Fronds, pinnate; pinnæ, deeply pinnatifid, 1½°—3° high. A handsome, smooth fern.—July.

Sp. 194. Dryopteris thelypteris. Gray. Syn. *Aspidium.* Swartz. *Polypodium Thelypteris.* Linn.

Com. name—Winged Wood Fern. Frond, pinnate, pinnatifid; stalk 1° or more high. Slightly downy.—Aug.

Sp. 195. D. Noveboracensis. Gray. Syn. *Polypodium Noveboracense.* Linn. *Aspidum Thelypteroides.* Swartz.

Com. name—Northern Wood Fern. Frond, pale-green, delicate membranous; swamps.—July.

Sp. 196. D. Goldiana. Gray. Syn. *Aspidium Goldianum.* Hook.

Com. name—Goldie's Wood Fern. Frond, 2°—3° long; broadly ovate, pinnately parted; pinnales about 20 pairs.—A showy fern.—Sept.

Sp. 197. Cystopteris bulbifera. Bernh. Syn. *Aspidum Bulbiferum.* Swartz. *A. Atomarium.* Muhl.

Com. name—Bladder Fern. Frond, lanceolate, elongated. 1°—2° long; 2-pinnate; shaded, moist rocks.—July.

The four preceding species have been lately separated from *Aspidum*, the genus that yields the *male Fern* of the shops. They are equal in every degree I believe to the foreign article and should be attended to.

Sp. 198. Osmunda spectabilis. Willd.

Com. name—Flowering Fern. Frond 2-pinnate, 2°—4° high; very smooth; swamps, common.—July.

Sp. 199. O. Cinnamomea. Linn.

Com. name—Cinnamon Fern. Frond, pinnate, clothed with rusty wool when young, growing in large bunches, the fertile in the centre, 1°—2° high; swamps.—May.

Demulcent, sub-astringent, corroborant and discutient.—Gives a fine mucilage boiled in milk. Useful in diarrhœa, dysentery, cholera infantum, phthisis, &c. [Raf. Med Flor. 2d. 249.] Lindley, [Nat. Syst. Bot. 311.] mentions that they have been given in 3 drachm doses for rickets. I believe them to be useful, and should be more thoroughly and accurately investigated.

Order LXVII.—LYCOPODIACEÆ. (*Club Moss Family.*)

Sp. 200. Lycopodium lucidulum. Michx.

Com. name—Thick stemed Club Moss, Hog-bed, 6′—12′ high; spreading 2 or 3 times forked.—Aug.

Sp. 201. L. Complanatum. Linn.

Com. names—Common Club Moss, Ground Pine. Stems, extensively creeping; peduncles bearing 2—4 cylindrical spikes.—July.

The 2 species are equivalent. Diuretic, menagogue, drastic, nervine, alternant aperient and corroborant. Used in dropsy, gout, scurvy, diarrhœa, and suppressions; externally for tinea plica, &c., in infants; kills lice, and insects, &c. [Raf. Med. Flor. 2d. 240.] If the half of what Rafinesque says of them be true, some attention should be paid them.

Order LXVIII.—CHARCEÆ. [*Chara Family.*]

Sp. 202. Chara vulgaris.

Com. name—Water Feathers. Aquatic plants, with a fœtid small; among the most obscure of the vegetable kingdom.

According to Rafinesque, [Med. Flor. 2d. 207.] said to be anti-spasmodic and vermifuge, &c.

NOTE.

It is earnestly hoped that every Physician who receives this paper, either through the Ohio Medical and Surgical Journal, or by means of an Extra, will consider himself specially invited to furnish to my address, at Lancaster, Ohio, new facts or suggestions with regard: 1st. To the properties of old, or well known articles of the Materia Medica.

2d. Articles, hitherto unknown, or little used; of practical utility in the Materia Medica. And

3d. Any thing new with regard to the Medical Botany of Ohio.

In compiling a report on Materia Medica and Medical Botany, to be presented to the Ohio State Medical Society, which meets the first week of June, 1850, it will be necessary for me to have my materials by the 1st of April.

It shall be considered a sacred and inviolable duty, to give due credit to every individual who furnishes me with information deemed necessary to the Report.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. BIGELOW, M. D.

Lancaster, Ohio, Oct. 20, 1849.

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